PART B-2 SAFETY COLOR CODE FOR MARKING PHYSICAL HAZARDS, ETC., WINDOW WASHING

WAC	
296-24-135	Safety color code for marking physical hazards.
296-24-13501	Color identification.
296-24-140	Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.
296-24-14001	Scope.
296-24-14003	Definitions.
296-24-14005	Classification of signs according to use.
296-24-14007	Sign design and colors.
296-24-14009	Sign wordings.
296-24-14011	Accident prevention tags.

WAC 296-24-135 Safety color code for marking physical hazards.

[Order 73-5, § 296-24-135, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-135, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-13501 Color identification.

- (1) Red. Red shall be the basic color for the identification of:
 - (a) Fire protection equipment and apparatus, except motorized apparatus, as used on roads.
 - (b) Danger. Safety cans or other portable containers of flammable liquids having a flashpoint at or below 80°F. table containers of flammable liquids (open cup tester), excluding shipping containers, shall be painted red with some additional clearly visible identification either in the form of a yellow band around the can or the name of the contents conspicuously stenciled or painted on the can in yellow. Red lights shall be provided at barricades and at temporary obstructions, as specified in ANSI Safety Code for Building Construction, A10.2-1944. Danger signs shall be painted red.
 - (c) Stop. Emergency stop bars on hazardous machines such as rubber mills, wire blocks, flat work ironers, etc., shall be red. Stop buttons or electrical switches used for emergency stopping of machinery shall be red.
- Yellow. Yellow shall be the basic color for designating caution and for marking physical hazards such as: Striking against, stumbling, falling, tripping, and "caught in between."
 [Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, [49.17].050 and [49.17].060. 95-22-015, § 296-24-13501, filed 10/20/95, effective 1/16/96.
 Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040 and 49.17.050. 82-13-045 (Order 82-22), § 296-24-13501, filed 6/11/82; Order 73-5, § 296-24-

WAC 296-24-140 Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.

[Order 73-5, § 296-24-140, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-140, filed 5/7/73.]

13501, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-13501, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14001 Scope.

- (1) These specifications apply to the design, application, and use of signs or symbols (as included in WAC 296-24-14005 through 296-24-14009) intended to indicate and, insofar as possible, to define specific hazards of a nature such that failure to designate them may lead to accidental injury to workers. These specifications are intended to cover all safety signs except those designed for streets, highways, railroads, and marine regulations. These specifications do not apply to plant bulletin boards or to safety posters.
- (2) All new and replacements signs must meet the criteria contained in these specifications. [Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050. 02-12-098 (Order 00-20), § 296-24-14001, filed 06/05/02, effective 08/01/02. Order 76-6, § 296-24-14001, filed 3/1/76; Order 73-5, § 296-24-14001, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-14001, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14003 Definitions. As used in this section, the word "**sign**" refers to a surface on which letters or other markings appear, prepared for the warning of, or safety instructions of, industrial workers who may be exposed to hazards. Excluded from this definition, however, are news releases, displays commonly known as safety posters, and bulletins used for employee education.

[Order 73-5, § 296-24-14003, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-14003, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14005 Classification of signs according to use.

- (1) Danger signs.
 - (a) Danger signs should be used only where an immediate hazard exists. There shall be no variation in the type of design or signs posted to warn of specific dangers and radiation hazards.
 - (b) All employees shall be instructed that danger signs indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.
- (2) Caution signs.
 - (a) Caution signs shall be used only to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.
 - (b) All employees shall be instructed that caution signs indicate a possible hazard against which proper precaution should be taken.
- (3) Safety instruction signs. Safety instruction signs shall be used where there is a need for general instructions and suggestions relative to safety measures.

[Order 73-5, § 296-24-14005, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-14005, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14007 Sign design and colors.

- (1) All signs shall be furnished with rounded or blunt corners and shall be free from sharp edges, burrs, splinters, or other sharp projections. The ends or heads of bolts or other fastening devices shall be located in such a way that they do not constitute a hazard.
- (2) Danger signs.
 - (a) The colors red, black, and white shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of Fundamental Specification of Safety Colors for CIE Standard Source "C," American National Standard Z53.1-1971.
 - (b) Standard proportions shall be as indicated in Table J-1, and format shall be as in Fig. J-1.

- (3) Radiation warning signs.
 - (a) Standard color of the background shall be yellow; the panel, reddish purple with yellow letters; the symbol, reddish purple; any letters used against the yellow background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard, Z53.1-1971.
 - (b) The standard symbol shall be as in Figure J-3. Method of dimensioning, design, and orientation of the standard symbol (one blade pointed downward and centered on the vertical axis) shall be executed as illustrated. The symbol shall be prominently displayed, and of a size consistent with the size of the equipment or material or area to which it is attached.
 - (c) Format shall be as in Figure J-2. Sign proportions shall be the same as those for danger signs in Table J-1.
- (4) Caution signs.
 - (a) Standard color of the background shall be yellow; and the panel, black with yellow letters. Any letters used against the yellow background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard Z53.1-1971.
 - (b) Standard proportions shall be as indicated in Table J-2, and format shall be as in Figure J-4.
- (5) Exit signs. Exit signs shall be in accordance with WAC 296-800-310.
- (6) Safety instruction signs.
 - (a) Standard color of the background shall be white; and the panel, green with white letters. Any letters used against the white background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard, Z53.1-1971.
 - (b) Standard proportions shall be as indicated in Table J-3, and format shall be as in Figure J-5.
- (7) Directional signs.
 - (a) Standard color of the background shall be white; and the panel, black with white directional symbol. Any letters used against the white background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard Z53.1-1971.
 - (b) Standard proportions shall be as indicated in Table J-4, and format shall be as in Figure J-6.
- (8) In-plant traffic signs. Regulatory and control signs required for the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians on thoroughfares on plant property shall conform to the standards established in American National Standard Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, D6.1-1971.
- (9) Informational signs. Blue shall be the standard color for informational signs. It may be used as the background color for the complete sign or as a panel at the top of such types of "notice" signs, which have a white background. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard Z53.1-1971.
- (10) Slow-moving vehicle emblem. This emblem (see Fig. J-7) consists of a fluorescent yellow-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border. The yellow-orange fluorescent triangle is a highly visible color for daylight exposure. The reflective border defines the shape of the fluorescent color in daylight and creates a hollow red triangle in the path of motor vehicle headlights at night. The emblem is intended as a unique identification

for, and it shall be used only, on vehicles which by design move slowly (25 m.p.h. or less) on the public roads. The emblem is not a clearance marker for wide machinery nor is it intended to replace required lighting or marking of slow-moving vehicles. Neither the color film pattern and its dimensions nor the backing shall be altered to permit use of advertising or other markings. The material, location, mounting, etc., of the emblem shall be in accordance with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Emblem for Identifying Slow-Moving Vehicles, ASAE R276, 1967, or ASAE S276.2 (ANSI B114.1-1971).

(11) Symbols. Symbols used on signs shall follow recognized practices, such as in Figure J-8. For radioactive materials, see symbol in Figure J-3.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050. 01-11-038 (Order 99-36), § 296-24-14007, filed 05/09/01, effective 09/01/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040 and 49.17.050. 82-13-045 (Order 82-22), § 296-24-14007, filed 6/11/82; Order 73-5, § 296-24-14007, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, § 296-24-14007, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14009 Sign wordings.

- (1) Examples of wordings. The lists in (3) through (7) of this section are intended to serve as a guide for choosing the correct sign design for the message to be displayed.
- (2) Nature of wording. The wording of any sign should be easily read and concise. The sign should contain sufficient information to be easily understood. The wording should make a positive, rather than negative suggestion and should be accurate in fact.
- (3) Danger signs.

Danger-Keep off, electric current.

Danger-No smoking, matches, or open lights.

Danger-Workers above.

Danger-Not room enough here to clear men on cars.

Danger-Keep away.

Danger-Workers in boiler.

Danger-Insufficient clearance.

Danger-2,300 volts.

Danger-Keep out.

Danger-Crane overhead.

Danger-Keep off.

(4) Biological hazard signs. The biological hazard warning shall be used to signify the actual or potential presence of a biohazard and to identify equipment, containers, rooms, materials, experimental animals, or combinations thereof, which contain, or are contaminated with, viable hazardous agents. For the purpose of this subdivision the term "biological hazard," or "biohazard," shall include only those infectious agents presenting a risk or potential risk to the well-being of persons. The biohazard symbol shall be designed and proportioned as illustrated in Figure J-9. The symbol design shall be a fluorescent orange or orange-red color. Background color is optional as long as there is sufficient contrast for the symbol to be clearly defined. Appropriate wording may be used in association with the symbol to indicate the nature or identity of the hazard, name of individual responsible for its control, precautionary information, etc., but never should this information be superimposed on the symbol.

(5) Caution signs.

Caution-Do not operate, working on repairs.

Caution-Hands off switch, working on line.

Caution-Working on machines, do not start.

Caution-Goggles must be worn when operating this machine.

Caution-This door must be kept closed.

Caution-Electric trucks, go slow.

Caution-This space must be kept clear at all times.

Caution-Stop machinery to clean, oil, or repair.

Caution-Keep aisles clear.

Caution-Operators of this machine shall wear

snug fitting clothing-No gloves.

Caution-Close clearance.

Caution-Watch your step.

Caution-Electric fence.

(6) Safety instruction signs.

Report all injuries to the first-aid room at once.

Walk-Don't run.

Report all injuries no matter how slight.

Think, if safe go ahead.

Make your work place safe before starting the job.

Report all unsafe conditions to your supervisor.

Help keep this plant safe and clean.

(7) Directional signs.

This way out (below arrow panel).

This way (inside arrow) out (below arrow panel).

Fire exit (below arrow panel).

Fire (inside arrow) extinguisher (below arrow panel).

To the (inside arrow) fire escape (below arrow panel).

To the (inside arrow) first aid (below arrow panel).

Manway (below arrow panel).

This way to (inside arrow) first-aid room (below arrow panel).

(8) Informational signs.

No trespassing under penalty of the law.

This elevator is for freight only, not for passengers.

No admittance except to employees on duty.

No admittance.

No admittance, apply at office.

No trespassing.

Men.

Women.

For employees only.

Office.

Note: When sign wordings such as those listed in this section are contemplated, care should be taken to be sure that they are suitable for the particular location at which the sign is to be placed and that wording meets the requirements of the intended purpose. When there is a reasonable doubt, a sign of a standard design should be used.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 94-15-096 (Order 94-07), § 296-24-14009, filed 7/20/94, effective 9/20/94; Order 73-5, § 296-24-14009, filed 5/9/73 and Order 73-4, 296-24-14009, filed 5/7/73.]

WAC 296-24-14011 Accident prevention tags.

- (1) Scope and purpose.
 - (a) This section applies to all accident prevention tags used to identify hazardous conditions and provide a message to employees with respect to hazardous conditions as set forth in subsection (3) of this section, or to meet the specific requirements of other WAC requirements.
 - (b) Tags are a temporary means of warning all concerned of a hazardous condition, defective equipment, radiation hazards, etc. The tags are not to be considered as a complete warning method, but should be used until a positive means can be employed to eliminate the hazard; for example, a "do not start" tag on power equipment shall be used for a few moments or a very short time until the switch in the system can be locked out; a "defective equipment" tag shall be placed on a damaged ladder and immediate arrangements made for the ladder to be taken out of service and sent to the repair shop.

(c) This section does not apply to construction.

(2) Definitions.

- (a) **"Biological hazard" or "Biohazard"** means those infectious agents presenting a risk of death, injury or illness to employees.
- (b) "Major message" means that portion of a tag's inscription that is more specific than the signal word and that indicates the specific hazardous condition or the instruction to be communicated to the employee. Examples include: "High Voltage," "Close Clearance," "Do Not Start," or "Do Not Use" or a corresponding pictograph used with a written text or alone.
- (c) **"Pictograph"** means a pictorial representation used to identify a hazardous condition or to convey a safety instruction.
- (d) "Signal word" means that portion of a tag's inscription that contains the word or words that are intended to capture the employee's immediate attention.
- (e) "Tag" means a device usually made of card, paper, pasteboard, plastic or other material used to identify a hazardous condition.

(3) Use.

- (a) Tags shall be used as a means to prevent accidental injury or illness to employees who are exposed to hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations which are out of the ordinary, unexpected or not readily apparent.
- (b) Tags shall be used until such time as the identified hazard is eliminated or the hazardous operation is completed. Tags need not be used where signs, guarding or other positive means of protection are being used.
- (c) Do not start tags shall be placed in a conspicuous location or shall be placed in such a manner that they effectively block the starting mechanism which would cause hazardous conditions should the equipment be energized. See Fig. J-11.

(4) General tag criteria.

- (a) All required tags shall meet the following criteria:
 - (i) Tags shall contain a signal word and a major message.
 - (ii) The signal word shall be either "Danger," "Caution," or "Biological Hazard," "biohazard," or the biological hazard symbol.
 - (iii) The major message shall indicate the specific hazardous condition or the instruction to be communicated to the employee.
- (b) The signal word shall be readable at a minimum distance of five feet (1.52 m) or such greater distance as warranted by the hazard.
- (c) The tag's major message shall be presented in either pictographs, written text or both.
- (d) The signal word and the major message shall be understandable to all employees who may be exposed to the identified hazard.

- (e) All employees shall be informed as to the meaning of the various tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.
- (f) Tags shall be affixed as close as safely possible to their respective hazards by a positive means such as string, wire, or adhesive that prevents their loss or unintentional removal.
- (g) The tag and attachment method or device used shall be constructed of such material that they will not be likely to deteriorate in the environment in which the tag is used during the time period of intended use.

(5) Danger tags.

- (a) Danger tags shall be used in major hazard situations where an immediate hazard presents a threat of death or serious injury to employees. Danger tags shall be used only in these situations. See Fig. J-11.
- (b) All employees should be instructed that danger tags indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.

(6) Caution tags.

- (a) Caution tags shall be used in minor hazard situations where a nonimmediate or potential hazard or unsafe practice presents a lesser threat of employee injury. Caution tags shall be used only in these situations. See Fig. J-12.
- (b) All employees should be instructed that caution tags indicate a possible hazard against which proper precautions should be taken.
- (7) Warning tags. Warning tags may be used to represent a hazard level between "Caution" and "Danger," instead of the required "Caution" tag, provided that they have a signal word of "Warning," an appropriate major message, and otherwise meet the general tag criteria of subsection (4) of this section.
- (8) Out of order tags. Out of order tags should be used only for the specific purpose of indicating that a piece of equipment, machinery, etc., is out of order and to attempt to use it might present a hazard. (See Fig. J-13.)

(9) Radiation tags.

- (a) The standard background for radiation tags shall be yellow; the panel shall be reddish purple. Any letters used against the yellow background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1, Fundamental Specification of Safety Colors for CIE Standard Source "C" American National Standards Institute, Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment, Z53.1-1971.
- (b) The method of dimension, design, and orientation of the standard symbol (one blade pointed downward and centered on the vertical axis) shall be executed as illustrated in Figure J-14. The symbol shall be prominently displayed and of a size consistent with the size of the equipment or area in which it is to be used.

(10) Biological hazard tags.

(a) Biological hazard tags shall be used to identify the actual or potential presence of a biological hazard and to identify equipment, containers, rooms, experimental animals, or combinations thereof, that contain or are contaminated with hazardous biological agents.

- (b) The symbol design for biological hazard tags shall conform to the design shown in Fig. J-15.
- (11) Other tags. Other tags may be used in addition to those required by this section or in other situations where this section does not require tags, provided that they do not detract from the impact or visibility of the signal word and major message of any required tag.



Fig. J-1 Danger Sign

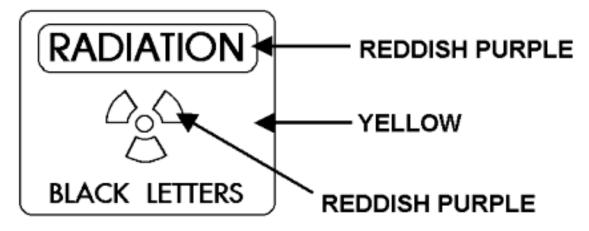


Fig. J-2 Radiation Warning Sign

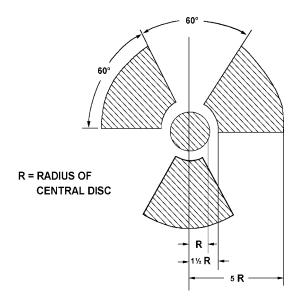


Fig. J-3 Standard Radiation Symbol



Fig. J-4 Caution Sign

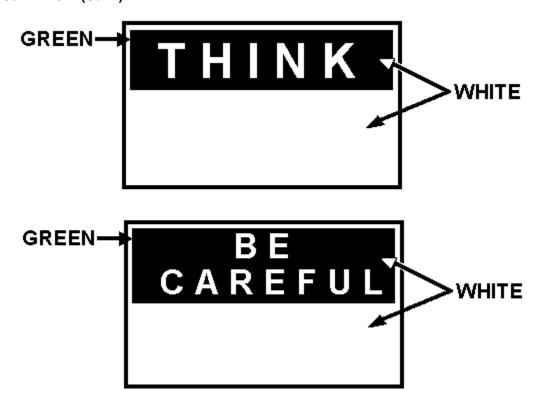


Fig. J-5 Safety Instruction Signs

(Note: The words "think" and "be careful," given here, are only illustrations. Other wordings may be used.)

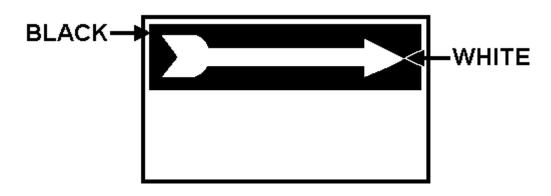


Fig. J-6 Directional Signs

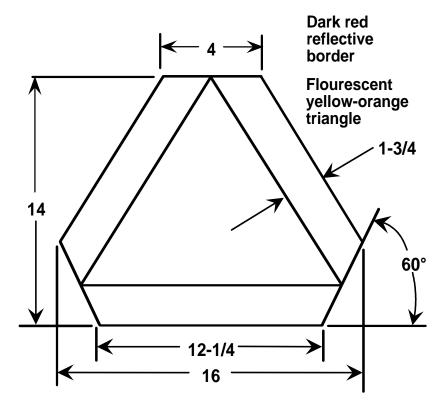


Fig. J-7 Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem

Note: All dimensions are in inches.

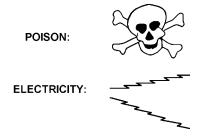


Fig. J-8 Symbols Used on Signs

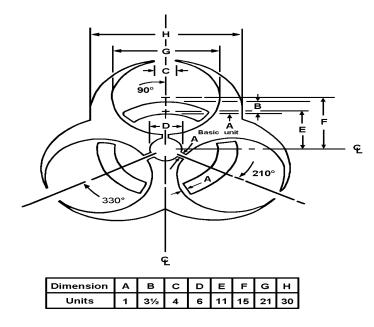
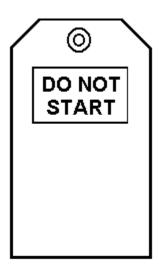
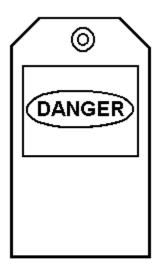


Fig. J-9 Symbol for Biological Hazard



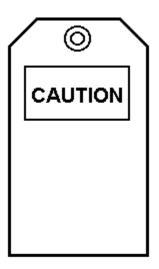
White tag white letters on red square

Fig. J-10 Do Not Start Tag Part B-2, Page 13 07/01 Issue



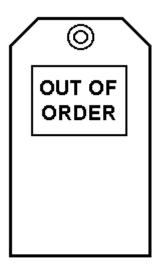
White tag white letters on red oval with a black square

Fig. J-11 Danger Tag



Yellow tag yellow letters on a black background

Fig. J-12 Caution Tag



White tag white letters on black background

Fig. J-13 Out of Order Tag

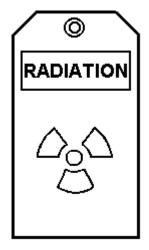


Fig. J-14 Radiation Tag

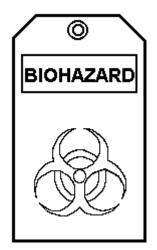


Fig. J-15 Biological Hazard Tag

TABLE J-1 STANDARD PROPORTIONS FOR DANGER SIGNS

Sign size, inches height width	Black rectangular panel, inches height width	Red oval, inches Height width Word danger, height width		rectangular panel, inches Height width		Maximum space available for sign wording, inches
	HORIZONTAL PATTERN					
7x10	3 1/4 x 9 3/8	2 7/8 x 8 1/2	1 7/16	2 3/4 x 9 3/8		
10 x 14	4 5/8 x 13 3/8	4 1/8 x 11 7/8	2 1/16	4 1/4 x 13 3/8		
14 x 20	6 1/2 x 19 3/8	5 3/4 x 17	2 7/8	6 1/4 x 19 3/8		
20 x 28	9 1/4 x 27 3/8	8 1/4 x 23 7/8	4 1/8	9 1/2 x 27 3/8		
UPRIGHT PATTERN						
10 x 7	2 3/8 x 6 3/8	2 1/8 x 5 7/8	1 1/16	6 3/8 x 6 3/8		
14 x 10	3 1/4 x 9 3/8	2 7/8 x 8 1/2	1 7/16	9 1/2 x 9 3/8		
20 x 14	4 5/8 x 13 3/8	4 1/8 x 11 7/8	2 1/16	14 x 13 3/8		
28 x 20	6 1/2 x 19 3/8	5 3/4 x 17	2 7/8	20 1/4 x 19 3/8		

TABLE J-2 STANDARD PROPORTIONS FOR CAUTION SIGNS

			Maximum space available for sign		
	Black rectangular	Word "Caution"	wording below		
Sign size, inches height width	panel, inches height width	height of letter, inches	panel, inches height width		
neight width			neight width		
	HORIZONTA	LPATIERN			
7 x 10	2 1/4 x 9 3/8	1 5/8	3 1/4 x 9 3/8		
10 x 14	3 1/4 x 13 3/8	2 1/4	5 1/2 x 13 3/8		
14 x 20	3 3/4 x 19 3/8	2 3/4	9 x 19 3/8		
20 x 28	4 1/4 x 27 3/8	3 1/4	14 1/2 x 27 3/8		
UPRIGHT PATTERN					
10 x 7	1 5/8 x 6 3/8	1 1/8	7 x 6 3/8		
14 x 10	2 1/4 x 9 3/8	1 5/8	10 1/2 x 9 3/8		
20 x 14	3 1/4 x 13 3/8	2 1/4	15 1/2 x 13 3/8		
28 x 20	3 3/4 x 19 3/8	2 3/4	24 x 19 3/8		

TABLE J-3 STANDARD PROPORTIONS FOR SAFETY INSTRUCTION SIGNS Part 1 – "Think" Safety Signs

Sign size, inches height width	Green rectangular panel, inches, height width	Word ''Think'' height letter, inches	Maximum space available for sign wording below panel, inches height width
7 x 10	2 3/4 x 9 3/8	1 5/8	3 1/2 x 9 3/8
10 x 14	3 1/4 x 13 3/8	2 1/4	5 1/2 x 13 3/8
14 x 20	3 3/4 x 19 3/8	2 3/4	9 x 19 3/8
20 x 28	4 1/4 x 27 3/8	3 1/4	14 1/2 x 27 3/8

TABLE J-3 STANDARD PROPORTIONS FOR SAFETY INSTRUCTION SIGNS Part 2 –"Be Careful" Safety Sign

Sign size, inches height width	Green panel, inches, height width	Word "Be" Height of letters, inches	Word "Careful" height of letters, inches	Maximum space available for sign wording below panel, inches height width
7 x 10	3 3/8 x 9 3/8	1 1/4	1 3/16	2 1/2 x 9 3/8
10 x 14	4 1/4 x 13 3/8	1 3/4	2 3/16	4 x 13 3/8
14 x 20	6 1/4 x 19 3/8	2 1/2	3 1/8	6 x 19 3/8
20 x 28	9 1/2 x 27 3/8	3 1/2	4 3/8	9 1/4 x 27 3/8

TABLE J-4 STANDARD PROPORTIONS FOR DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Sign size,	Black rectangular		Whi	te arrow, in	ches	Maximum space available for sign wording
inches height	panel, inches height width	Overall length	Arrow head height inches	Arrow shaft height	Arrow tail height width	below panel, height
6 1/2 x 14	3 1/4 x 13 3/8	12 5/8	2 3/4 x 3	1 1/8	2 3/8 x 3 1/4	2 1/4 x 3 3/8
9 x 20	4 1/2 x 19 3/8	18 5/8	3 3/4 x 4 1/8	1 5/8	3 1/4 x 4 1/2	3 3/8 x 19 3/8
12 x 28	6 x 27 3/8	26 5/8	5 1/8 x 5 5/8	2 1/8	4 3/8 x 6	4 3/4 x 27 3/8
15 x 36	7 1/2 x 35 3/8	34 5/8	6 3/8 x 6 7/8	2 5/8	5 1/2 x 7 1/2	6 1/4 x 35 3/8

Appendix A--Recommended color coding.

While the standard does not specifically mandate colors to be used on accident prevention tags, the following color scheme is recommended by OSHA for meeting the requirements of this section:

- "DANGER"-Red, or predominantly red, with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.
- "CAUTION"-Yellow, or predominantly yellow, with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.
- "WARNING"-Orange, or predominantly orange, with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.
- **"BIOLOGICAL HAZARD"**-Fluorescent orange or orange-red, or predominantly so, with lettering or symbols in a contrasting color.

Appendix B-References for further information.

The following references provide information which can be helpful in understanding the requirements contained in various sections of the standard:

- 1. Bresnahan, Thomas F., and Bryk, Joseph. "The Hazard Association Values of Accident Prevention Signs", Journal of American Society of Safety Engineers: January 1975.
- 2. Dreyfuss, H., Symbol Sourcebook, McGraw Hill: New York, NY, 1972.
- Glass, R. A. and others, Some Criteria for Colors and Signs in Workplaces, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Quince Orchard and Clopper Roads, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0011, 1983.
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